



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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WEATHER & CROPS



Month: March 2014

Number: 3

Released: March 31, 2014

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MARCH, 2014

The month of March was cold and wet for the Commonwealth. Most of Virginia experienced multiple snow storms, with long periods of colder than normal temperatures. During the last week of the month, temperatures were about 4 to 9 degrees below normal, and most of Virginia experienced one or more inches of rain. The majority of livestock was in fair to good condition; supplemental feeding during the cold winter took a heavy toll on hay stocks. Small grains were also affected by the cold and snowy weather; applications of fertilizer were delayed or missed as farmers worked around muddy fields. In some cases, a topdressing small grain was done on frozen ground. Other farming activities for the week included working on farming equipment, preparing beds for planting, and covering strawberry plants.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	3	34	53	9
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	0	8	31	52	9

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	14	10
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	11	4
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	9	8

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

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A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 30, 2014

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Mar 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	53	32	67	21	43	-6	1.09	2.94	-0.60	10.02	-0.20
Norfolk	55	38	75	30	47	-4	1.21	3.53	-0.26	9.83	-1.21
Richmond	55	35	70	21	45	-5	1.27	2.75	-1.06	9.06	-1.23
Roanoke	51	31	63	23	41	-9	.95	2.76	-0.77	9.03	-0.78
Wash/Dulles	46	28	64	15	37	-9	1.43	3.22	-0.03	9.72	0.64

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We receive snow on Tuesday and continued into Wednesday. Temperatures were in the teens on Wednesday morning. Continued cold weather has delayed spring pasture growth and has affected the small grains.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

March has ended with a steady Rain over a two day period with accumulations of 2 inches or more during the two day period. Snow and rain created wet field conditions that prevented field work for most days in March.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Maple production was later than usual and production was average to slightly above average for those that kept their trees open.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

March has been colder than in recent years, extending the theme for the entire winter. Hay supplies are dwindling, and livestock owners are anticipating warmer weather to stimulate pasture growth. This has been one of the harshest winters on livestock in recent memory.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

March was a very cold month with 3 snowfalls, not a great amount when measuring in inches. March 3rd, average of 3" with some sleet and very cold, March 4th a low of 10 degrees. There have been a few days of 60 to 70 degrees, maybe 6 or 7 days this month. Farmers have been able to get their small grain crops topdressed, which was a concern earlier. They are starting to look better. The past 3 months have been a challenge, a lot more hay was fed, some dairy and cattle losses, and huge utility bill for keeping the poultry houses going. Don't know of anyone not welcoming spring!

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The coldest and wettest winter in several years has been winding down into the coldest and wettest spring beginning in several years. We had snow yesterday 3/26-27/2014 in the western half of the county. The temperature this morning was 20 degrees. A lot of the small grain has been topdressed once in either the rare warm and dry day or more so on frozen ground. Small grain is beginning to respond, but it is way behind normal growth. Every time the pastures show signs of growth we have another winter blast which short circuits the process.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cold weather has increased hay feeding, resulting in short supply. Cattle are coming out of winter in lower body condition than normal. Strawberries are showing signs of damage from prolonged cool periods and extended periods under row cover.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

March has been very cold and wet with several inches of rain latter part of March. Beginning of corn planting will be delayed this spring, waiting on fields to dry. Most of wheat has had nitrogen applied and is in good condition.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Our weather has been trending on the very wet side, most small grain was top dressed with fertilizer, but a good amount remains untouched for broadleaf weed control.